

From our Jefferson City Correspondent.

JEFFERSON CITY, Dec. 12th, 1844.

MESSRS. BENSON & GREEN:—This morning the resolutions proposing to instruct our Senators and request our representatives in Congress on the all absorbing topic, the annexation of Texas, being the order of the day, were called up. Mr. Martin of Cole, having offered several resolutions as an amendment to the amendment of Mr. Hughes of Platte, withdrew his amendment, after which Mr. Hughes withdrew the amendment offered by him, and then moved to amend Mr. Hough's original resolutions by striking out all after the word Resolved, and inserting substantially, the evasive, unmeaning, intangible things, before offered, adopting "at the earliest practicable period," and afterwards, frittering and trimming that phrase down, till it really means nothing. About this time Mr. Gamble rose and offered a new string of resolutions, each one of which was culled from some of the phrases and sentiments of Mr. Benton's anti-Texas speeches, as a substitute for the amendment of Mr. Hughes. At this there was evidently great confusion on the part of the leaders, and visible astonishment. There was that depicted in all their countenances, which if it had given utterance would have said, What! This from a Whig! But after the first shock of surprise had a little subsided, Mr. Hughes of Platte, moved the indefinite postponement of the substitute offered by Mr. Gamble; it being suggested, however, that this would preclude the House from further action upon the same subject again during the session, he changed his motion into a motion to reject the substitute of Mr. Gamble. Then came the moment of intense anxiety. The question being put, "Shall the substitute be rejected?" A pause, silent as death ensued—all expecting debate to spring up. The softs with their original resolutions—the hards with the proposed amendments thereto—and the whigs with the substitute for the whole, offered by Mr. Gamble.—Each division seemed to desire that one of the others should lead off. And at this juncture, Mr. Williams, a gentleman of the bar, from St. Louis, a whig, rose and addressed the House, in a more able and eloquent speech, than has been made in the Capitol since its existence. After speaking some two hours, he gave way for a motion to adjourn till two o'clock this evening, at which time he resumed his remarks, to a crowded house of ladies and gentlemen.—You may depend upon it, Democracy has not received such a chastisement in this part of the State before. He used most copious extracts from Colonel Benton's speeches. His remarks about the original treaty being an intrigue for the Presidency, a declaration of war against Mexico, an unjust, unconstitutional and piratical war. The Senators came in, and democracy in the House and the lobby, looked agast.—When Mr. Williams commented on the preamble and resolutions adopted by the Texas meetings in Howard and Randolph counties, showing that at those meetings the words now and immediately were the words used in reference to the annexation of Texas, and when he compared them with the temporising, trimming and equivocal terms used in the present pretended resolutions of instructions, Mr. Speaker and Dr. Fort were seen to wince and twist as if each had been seated too near the fire. Mr. Biggs of Pike, being called to the Chair, Mr. Speaker, during the remarks of Mr. Williams, finding the temperature on two or three occasions a little too warm for him, interrupted Mr. Williams, who assuring him that personally he felt the utmost respect for him, and that he was only speaking politically, was permitted to conclude his remarks, which he did, after sun set this evening.

It is presumable that Mr. Speaker or Mr. Hough will treat the city with a reply in the morning. And this discussion will consume the balance of the week. The Senate yesterday passed the constitutional amendments. That branch also, to-day passed resolutions of instruction to our Senators in Congress, on the Texas question, much after the order of those now under discussion, offered by the hards in the House.

K. We have received no letter from our correspondent later than the above. We learn from the Jefferson papers that the debate was continued in the House on the Texas resolutions up to Monday. In the Senate, the committee on elections had made a report on the contested election from Cooper, in favor of Mr. O'Brien, the sitting member.

Where the testimony has been perfected, and was esteemed satisfactory, their claims have been promptly audited; and this in the absence of all favoritism or partiality. The Government which is not just to its own people, can neither claim its affection, nor the closest attention has been paid to those matters which relate more immediately to the great concerns of the country. Order and efficiency in each branch of the public service, have prevailed, accompanied by a system of the most rigid responsibility on the part of the receiving and disbursing agents. The fact, in illustration of the truth of this remark, deserves to be noticed, that the revenues of the Government, amounting in the last four years to upwards of \$120,000,000, have been collected and disbursed, through the numerous Government agents, without the loss, by default, of any amount worthy of serious commentary.

The appropriations made by Congress for improvement of the rivers of the West, and of the harbors on the lakes, are in a course of judicious expenditure under suitable agents; and are destined, it is to be hoped, to realize all the benefits designed to be accomplished by Congress. I cannot, however, sufficiently impress upon Congress, the great importance of withholding appropriations from improvements which are not ascertained, by previous examination and survey, to be necessary for the shelter and protection of trade from the dangers of storms and tempests.—Without this precaution, the expenditures are but too apt to enure to the benefit of individuals;—without reference to the only consideration which can render them constitutional—the public interests and the general good.

I cannot too earnestly urge upon you the interests of this District, over which, by the constitution, Congress has exclusive jurisdiction. It would be deeply to be regretted should there be, at any time, ground to complain of neglect on the part of a community which, detached as it is from the parental care of the States of Virginia and Maryland, can only expect aid from Congress, as its local legislature. Amongst the subjects which claim your attention, is the prompt organization of an asylum for the insane, who may be found from time, sojourning within the District. Such a course is also demanded by considerations which apply to branches of the public service. For the necessities in this behalf, I invite your particular attention to the report of the Secretary of the Navy.

I have thus, gentlemen of the two Houses of Congress, presented you a true and faithful picture of the condition of public affairs, both foreign and domestic. The wants of the public service are made known to you; and matters of no ordinary importance are urged upon your consideration. Shall I not be permitted to congratulate you on the happy auspices under which you have assembled, and at the important change in the condition of things which has occurred in the last three years?

During that period questions with foreign powers, of vital importance to the peace of our country, have been settled and adjusted. A desolating and wasting war with savage tribes, has been brought to a close. The internal tranquility of the country, threatened by agitating questions, has been preserved. The credit of the Government, which had experienced a temporary embarrassment, has been thoroughly restored. Its coffers, which, for a season, were empty, have been replenished. A currency nearly uniform in its value, has taken the place of one depreciated and almost worthless.

Commerce and manufactures, which had suffered in common with every other interest, have once more revived, and the whole country exhibits an aspect of prosperity and happiness.—Trade and barter no longer governed by a wild and speculative mania, rests upon a solid and substantial footing; and the rapid growth of our cities, in every direction, bespeaks most strongly the favorable circumstances by which we are surrounded. My happiness in the retirement which shortly awaits me, is the ardent hope which I experience, that this state of prosperity is neither deceptive nor destined to be short lived; and that measures which have not yet received its sanction, but which I cannot but regard as closely connected with the honor, the glory, and still more enlarged prosperity of the country, are destined at an early day to receive the approval of Congress. Under these circumstances, and with these anticipations, I shall most gladly leave to others, more able than myself, the noble and pleasing task of sustaining the public prosperity.

I shall carry with me into retirement the gratifying reflection that, as my sole object throughout has been to advance the public good, I may not entirely have failed in accomplishing it; and this gratification is heightened in no small degree by the fact, that when under a deep and abiding sense of duty, I have found myself constrained to resort to the qualified Veto, it has neither been followed by disapproval on the part of the People, nor weakened in any degree their attachment to that great conservative feature of our Government.

JOHN TYLER.

Washington, December, 1844.

Too good to be lost.—We endorse the following from Macklin's advice to his son, and put it again in circulation as too good to be lost:—

"I have often told you," he says, "that every man must be the maker or marer of his own fortune. I repeat the doctrine. He who depends upon his incessant industry and integrity, depends upon patrons of the noblest and most exalted kind; these are the creators of fortune and fame, the founders of families, and can never disappoint or desert you. They control all human dealings, and even vicissitudes of any unfortunate tendency to a contrary nature.—You have a genius, you have learning, you have industry at times, but you want perseverance; without it, you can do nothing. I bid you bear this motto in mind: Persevere."

Hon. Caleb Cushing, our Minister to China, has concluded a Treaty with that country, which it is said, will be of considerable benefit to the United States. He was expected in New York, at latest dates from that city.

"Missouri Capitol," is the title of a new democratic paper, started in the city of Jefferson, by J. Lindsay & Co. Its mechanical execution is not surpassed by any paper in the State, and should the succeeding numbers prove as spicy as the one before us, we have no doubt, it will receive that encouragement from the democracy of the State, which it so justly merits.

his report for a full statement of the condition of the Indian tribes within our jurisdiction. The Executive has abated no effort in carrying into effect the well-established policy of the Government, which contemplates a removal of all the tribes residing within the limits of the several States, beyond those limits; and it is now enabled to congratulate the country at the prospect of an early consummation of this object. Many of the tribes have already made great progress in the arts of civilized life; and through the operations of the school is established among them, aided by the efforts of the pious men of various religious denominations—who devote themselves to the task of their improvement—we may fondly hope that the remains of the formidable tribes which were once the masters of this country will, in their transition from the savage state, to a condition of refinement and cultivation, add another bright trophy to adorn the labors of a well directed philanthropy.

The accompanying report of the Secretary of the Navy, will explain to you the situation of that branch of the service. The present organization of the Department imparts to its operations great efficiency; but I concur fully in the propriety of a division of the Bureau of Construction, Equipment and repairs, into two Bureaus. The subjects, as now arranged, are incongruous, and require, to a certain extent, information and qualifications altogether dissimilar.

The operations of the squadron on the coast of Africa have been conducted with all due attention to the object which led to its organization; and I am happy to say that the officers and crews enjoyed the best possible health, under the system adopted by the officer in command. It is believed the United States is the only nation which has, by its laws, subjected to the punishment of death, as pirates, those who may be engaged in the slave trade. A similar enactment on the part of other nations would not fail to be attended by beneficial results.

In consequence of the difficulties which have existed in the way of securing titles for the necessary grounds, operations have not yet been commenced towards the establishment of the Navy Yard at Memphis. So soon as the title is perfected, no further delay will be permitted to intervene. It is well worthy of your consideration, whether Congress should not direct the establishment of a rope walk, in connection with the contemplated Navy Yard, as a measure not only of economy, but as highly useful and necessary. The only establishment of the sort now connected with the service is located at Boston; and the advantages of a similar establishment, convenient to the hemp growing region, must be apparent to all.

The report of the Secretary presents other matter to your consideration, of an important character in connection with the service.

In referring you to the accompanying report of the Postmaster General, I afford me continued cause of gratification to be able to advert to the fact, that the affairs of the department, for the last four years, have been so conducted, as from its unaided resources, to meet its large expenditures. On my coming into office, a debt of nearly \$500,000 existed against the department, which Congress discharged by an appropriation from the Treasury. The Department, on the 4th of March next, will be found under the management of the present efficient head, free of debt or embarrassment, which could only have been done by the observance and practice of the greatest vigilance and economy. The laws have contemplated, that the Department should be self sustained; but it may become necessary, with the wisest regard to public interests, to introduce amendments and alterations in the system. There is a strong desire manifested in many quarters, to alter the tariff of letter postage, as to reduce the amount of tax at present imposed. Should such a measure be carried into effect, to the full extent desired, it cannot well be doubted but that, for the first years of its operation, a diminished revenue would be collected, the supply of which would necessarily constitute a charge upon the Treasury. Whether such a result would be desirable, it will be for Congress, in its wisdom to determine. It may in general be asserted, that radical alterations in any system should rather be brought about gradually, than by sudden changes; and by pursuing this prudent policy in the reduction of letter postage, the Department might still sustain itself through the revenue which would accrue by the increase of letters. The state and the condition of the public Treasury has, heretofore, been such as to have precluded the recommendation of any material change. The difficulties upon this head have, however, ceased, and a large discretion is now left to the Government.

I cannot too strongly urge the policy of authorizing the establishment of a line of steam ships regularly to ply between this country and foreign ports and upon our waters, for the transportation of the mail. The example of the British Government is well worthy of imitation in this respect. The belief is strongly entertained that the emoluments arising from the transportation of mail matter to foreign countries, would operate itself as an inducement to cause individual enterprise to undertake that branch of the task; and the remuneration of the Government would consist in the addition readily made to our steam navy in case of emergency by the ships to employ. Should this suggestion meet your approval the propriety of placing such ships under the command of experienced officers of the Navy will not escape your observation. The application of steam to the purpose of naval warfare, cogently recommends an extensive steam marine as important in estimating the defenses of the country. Fortunately, this may be attained by us to a great extent without incurring any large amount of expenditure. Steam vessels to be engaged in the transportation of the mails on our principal water courses, lakes, and parts of our coast, could also be so constructed as to be so efficient as war vessels when needed; and would of themselves constitute a formidable force in order to repel attacks from abroad. We cannot be blind to the fact, that other nations have already added large numbers of steam ships to their naval armaments, and that this new and powerful agent is destined to revolutionize the condition of the world. It becomes the United States, therefore, looking to their security, to adopt a similar policy; and the plan suggested will enable them to do so at a small comparative cost.

I take the greatest pleasure in bearing testimony to the zeal and untiring industry which has characterized the conduct of the members of the Executive Cabinet. Each, in his appropriate sphere, has rendered me the most efficient aid in carrying on the Government, and it will not, I trust, appear out of place for me to bear this public testimony. The cardinal objects which should ever be held in view by those entrusted with the administration of public affairs, are rigidity, and without favor or affection, so to interpret the national will, expressed in the laws, as that justice should be done to none—justice to all. This has been the rule upon which they have acted;—and thus it is believed that few cases, if any, exist, wherein our fellow citizens, who from time to time have been drawn to the Seat of Government for the settlement of their transactions with the Government, have gone away dissatisfied.

meeting in installment of the debts of the corporate cities of the District of Columbia—an estimated surplus of upwards of \$7,000,000, over and above the existing appropriations, will remain in the Treasury at the close of the fiscal year.

Should the Treasury notes continue outstanding, as heretofore, that surplus will be considerably augmented. Although all interest has ceased upon them, and the Government has invited their return to the Treasury, yet they remain outstanding, affording great facilities to commerce, and establishing the fact, that under a well regulated system of finance, the Government has resources within itself, which render it independent in time of need, not only of private loans, but also of bank facilities.

The only remaining subject of regret is, that the remaining stocks of the government do not fall due at an earlier day, since their redemption would be entirely within its control. As it is, it may be well worthy the consideration of Congress, whether the law establishing the sinking fund—under the operation of which the debts of the Revolution and last war with Great Britain were, to a great extent, extinguished—should not with proper modifications, (so as to prevent an accumulation of surpluses, and limited in amount to a specific sum) be re-enacted. Such provision, which would authorize the Government to go into the market for a purchase of its own stock, on fair terms, would serve to maintain its credit at the highest point, and prevent, to a great extent, those fluctuations in the price of its securities, which might, under other circumstances, affect its credit. No apprehension of this sort is, at this moment, entertained; since the stocks of the Government which but two years ago were offered for sale to capitalists, at home and abroad, at a depreciation, and could find no purchasers, are now greatly above par in the hands of the holders; but a wise and prudent forecast admonishes us to place beyond the reach of contingency the public credit.

It must also be a matter of unmingled gratification, that, under the existing financial system—resting upon the act of 1790, and the resolution of 1816—the currency of the country has attained a state of perfect soundness; and the rates of exchange between different parts of the Union, which, in 1841, denoted, by their enormous amount, the great depreciation, and in fact worthlessness of the currency in most of the States—are now reduced to little more than the mere expense of transporting specie from place to place, and the risk incidental to the operation. In a new country like that of the United States—where so many inducements are held out for speculation—the depositories of the surplus revenue, consisting of Banks of any description, when it reaches any considerable amount, require the closest vigilance on the part of the government. All banking institutions, under whatever denomination they may pass, are governed by an almost exclusive regard to the interest of the stockholders. That interest consists in the augmentation of profits, in the form of dividends, and a large surplus revenue entrusted to their custody is but too apt to lead to excessive loans and to extravagantly large issues of paper. As a necessary consequence, prices are nominally increased, and the speculative mania every where seizes upon the public mind. A fictitious state of prosperity for a season exists; and, in the language of the day, money becomes plenty.

Contracts are entered into by individuals, resting on this unsubstantial state of things, but the delusion speedily passes away, and the country is overrun by an indebtedness so weighty as to overwhelm many, and to visit every department of industry with great and ruinous embarrassment. The greatest vigilance becomes necessary on the part of Government to guard against this state of things. The depositories must be given distinctly to understand that the favors of the Government will be altogether withdrawn, or substantially diminished, if its revenues shall be regarded as additions to their banking capital, or as the foundation of an enlarged circulation. The Government, through its revenue, has, at all times, an important part to perform in connection with the currency; and it greatly depends upon its vigilance and care, whether the country be involved in embarrassments similar to those which it has had recently to encounter; or aided by the action of the Treasury, shall be preserved in a sound and healthy condition.

The dangers to be guarded against are greatly augmented by too large a surplus of revenue. When that surplus greatly exceeds in amount what shall be required by a wise and prudent forecast to meet unforeseen contingencies, the Legislature itself may come to be seized with a disposition to indulge in extravagant appropriations to objects, many of which may—and most probably would—be found to conflict with the Constitution. A fancied expediency is elevated above constitutional authority; and a reckless and wasteful extravagance but too certainly follows.

The important power of taxation, which, when exercised in its most restricted form, is a burden on labor and production, is resorted to, under various pretexts, for purposes having no affinity to the motives which dictated its grant, and the extravagance of Government stimulates individual extravagance, until the spirit of a wild and ill-regulated speculation, involves one and all in its unfortunate results. In view of such fatal consequences, it may be laid down as an axiom, founded in moral and political truth, that no greater taxes should be imposed than are necessary for an economical administration of the Government, and that whatever exists beyond, should be reduced or modified.

This doctrine does in no way conflict with the exercise of a sound discrimination in the selection of the articles to be taxed, which a due regard to the public weal would at all times suggest to the Legislative mind. It leaves the range of selection undefined; and such selections should always be made with an eye to the great interest of the country. Composed as is the Union of separate and independent States, a patriotic Legislature will not fail in consulting the interests of the parts, to adopt such course as will be best calculated to advance the harmony of the whole; and thus insure that permanency in the policy of government, without which all efforts to advance the public prosperity are vain and fruitless. This great and vitally important task rests with Congress; and the Executive can do no more than recommend the general principles which should govern in its execution.

I refer you to the report of the Secretary War, for an exhibition of the condition of the army; and recommend to you, as well worthy your best consideration, many of the suggestions it contains. The Secretary in no degree exaggerates the great importance of pressing forward, without delay, in the work of erecting and finishing the fortifications, to which he particularly alludes. Much has been done towards placing our cities and roadsteads in a state of security against the hazards of hostile attack, within the last four years, but considering the new elements which have been, of late years, employed in the propelling of ships, and the formidable implements of destruction which have been brought into service, we cannot be too active or vigilant in preparing and perfecting the means of defence. I refer you, also, to

sentiment. No definitive action having been taken on the subject by Congress, the question referred itself directly to the decision of the States and the people.

The great popular election which has just terminated, afforded the best opportunity of ascertaining the will of the States and the people upon it. Pending that issue, it became the imperative duty of the Executive to inform Mexico, that the question of annexation was still before the American People, and that, until their opinion was pronounced, any serious invasion of Texas would be regarded as an attempt to forestall their judgment, and could not be looked upon with indifference. I am most happy to inform you that no such invasion has taken place, and I trust that, whatever your action may be upon it, Mexico will see the importance of deciding the matter by a resort to peaceful expedients in preference to those of arms.

The decision of the People and the States, on this great and interesting subject, has been decisively manifested. The question of annexation has been presented nakedly to their consideration. By the treaty itself, all collateral and incidental issues, which were calculated to divide and distract the public councils, were carefully avoided. These were left to the wisdom of the future to determine. It presented, I repeat, the isolated question of annexation; and in that form it has been submitted to the ordeal of public sentiment. A controlling majority of the People, and a large majority of the States, have declared in favor of immediate annexation. Instructions have thus come up to both branches of Congress, from their respective constituents, in terms the most emphatic.

It is the will of both the people and the States, that Texas shall be annexed to the Union, promptly and immediately. It may be hoped that, in carrying into execution the public will, thus declared, all collateral issues may be avoided. Future legislation can best decide as to the number of States which should be formed out of the territory, when the time has arrived for deciding that question. So with all others. By the treaty the United States assumed the payment of the debts of Texas, to an amount not exceeding \$10,000,000, to be paid, with the exception of a sum falling short of \$400,000, exclusively out of the proceeds of the sales of her public lands. We could not, with honor, take the lands, without assuming the full payment of all incumbrances upon them.

Nothing has occurred since your last session, to induce a doubt that the dispositions of Texas remain unaltered. No intimation of an altered determination, on the part of her Government and People, has been furnished to the Executive. She still desires to throw herself under the protection of our laws, and to partake of the blessings of our federative system; while every American interest would seem to require it. The extension of our coastwise and foreign trade, to an amount almost incalculable—the enlargement of the market for our manufactures—the constantly growing market for our agricultural productions—safety to our frontiers, and additional strength and stability to the Union—these are the results which would rapidly develop themselves upon the consummation of the measure of annexation. In such event, I will not doubt but that Mexico would find the true interest to consist in meeting the advances of this Government in a spirit of amity.

Nor do I apprehend any serious complaint from any other quarter; no sufficient ground exists for such complaint. We should interfere in no respect with the rights of any other nation. There cannot be gathered from the act, any design on our part to do so with their possessions on this Continent. We have interposed no impediments in the way of such acquisitions of territory, large and extensive as many of them are, as the leading powers of Europe have made, from time to time, in every part of the world. We seek no conquest made by war. No intrigue will have been resorted to, or acts of diplomacy essayed to accomplish the annexation of Texas. Free and independent herself, she asks to be received into our Union. It is a question for our own decision, whether she shall be received or not.

The two Governments having already agreed, through their respective organs, on the terms of annexation, I would recommend their adoption by Congress in the form of a joint resolution, or act, to be perfected and made binding on the two countries, when adopted in like manner by the Government of Texas.

In order that the subject may be fully presented in all its bearings, the correspondence which has taken place, in reference to it, since the adjournment of Congress, between the United States, Texas, and Mexico, is herewith transmitted.

The amendments proposed by the Senate to the Convention concluded between the United States and Mexico on the 20th of November, 1843, have been transmitted through our Minister, for the concurrence of the Mexican Government; but, although urged thereto, no action has yet been had on the subject; nor has any answer been given which would authorize a favorable conclusion in the future.

The Decree of September, 1843, in relation to the retail trade, the order for the expulsion of foreigners, and that of a more recent date in regard to passports—all of which are considered as in violation of the Treaty of Amity and Commerce between the two countries, have led to a correspondence of considerable length between the Minister of Foreign Relations and our Representative at Mexico, but without any satisfactory result. They remain still unadjusted; and many and serious inconveniences have already resulted to our citizens in consequence of them.

Questions growing out of the act of disarming a body of Texan troops under the command of Maj. Suively, by an officer in the service of the United States, acting under the orders of our Government, and the forcible entry into the Custom house at Bryer's landing, on Red River, by certain citizens of the U. States, and taking away therefrom the goods seized by the Collector of the Customs, as forfeited under the laws of Texas, have been adjusted, so far as the powers of the Executive extend. The correspondence between the two Governments in reference to both subjects, will be found among the accompanying documents. It contains a full statement of all the facts and circumstances with the views taken on both sides, and the principles on which the questions have been adjusted. It remains for Congress to make the necessary appropriation to carry the arrangement into effect, which I respectfully recommend.

The greatly improved condition of the Treasury affords a subject for general congratulation. The paralysis which had fallen on trade and commerce and which subjected the Government to the necessity of resorting to loans and issues of Treasury notes, to a large amount, has passed away; and after the payment of upwards of \$7,000,000, on account of the interest, and in redemption, of more than \$5,000,000, of the public debt, which falls due on the 1st of January next, and setting apart upwards of \$2,000,000, for the payment of outstanding Treasury notes,

to believe, has been produced in consequence of the negotiation of the late treaty of annexation of Texas. The Executive, therefore, could not be indifferent to such proceedings; and it felt it to be due, as well to itself as to the honor of the country, that a strong representation should be made to the Mexican Government upon the subject. This was accordingly done; as will be seen by the copy of the accompanying despatch from the Secretary of State to the United States Envoy at Mexico.

Mexico has no right to jeopard the peace of the world by urging any longer, a useless and fruitless contest. Such a condition of things would not be tolerated on the European continent.—Why should it be on this? A war of desolation, such as is now threatened by Mexico, cannot be waged without threatening our peace and tranquillity. It is idle to believe that such a war could be looked upon with indifference by our own citizens, inhabiting adjoining States, and our neutrality would be violated, in despite of all efforts on the part of the Government to prevent it. The country is settled by emigrants from the United States, under invitations held out to them by Spain and Mexico. Those emigrants have left behind them friends and relatives who would not fail to sympathize with them in their difficulties, and who would be led by those sympathies to participate in their struggles, however energetically the action of Government to prevent it. Nor would the numerous and formidable bands of Indians, the most warlike to be found in any land, which occupy the extensive regions contiguous to the States of Arkansas and Missouri, and who are in possession of large tracts of country within the limits of Texas, be likely to remain passive. The incitation of those numerous tribes lead them invariably to war when ever pretexts exist.

Mexico has no just ground of displeasure against this Government or People for negotiating the treaty. What interest of hers was effected by the treaty? She was despoiled of nothing, since Texas was forever lost to her. The independence of Texas was recognised by several of the leading powers of the earth. She was free to treat—free to adopt her own line of policy—free to take the course which she believed was best calculated to secure her happiness. Her Government and people decided on annexation to the United States; and the Executive saw, in the acquisition of such a territory, the means of advancing their permanent happiness and glory. What principle of good faith then was violated? What rule of political morals trampled under foot?

So far as Mexico herself was concerned, the measure should have been regarded by her as highly beneficial. Her inability to reconquer Texas had been exhibited, I repeat, by eight—now nine years of fruitless and ruinous contest. In the mean time, Texas has been growing in population and resources. Emigration has flowed into her territory, from all parts of the world, in a current which continues to increase in strength. Mexico requires a permanent boundary between that young republic and herself. Texas, at no distant day, if she continues separate and detached from the United States, will inevitably seek to consolidate her strength by adding to her domain the contiguous provinces of Mexico.

The spirit of revolt from the control of the Central Government, has heretofore manifested itself in some of those provinces; and it is fair to infer that they would be inclined to take the first favorable opportunity to proclaim their independence, and to form close alliances with Texas. The war would thus be endless; or, if cessations of hostilities should occur, they would only endure for a season. The interests of Mexico, therefore, could in nothing be better consulted than in a peace with her neighbors, which would result in the establishment of a permanent boundary. Upon the ratification of the treaty, the Executive was prepared to treat with her on the most liberal basis. Hence the boundaries of Texas were left undefined by the treaty.

The Executive proposed to settle these upon terms that all the world should have pronounced just and reasonable. No negotiation upon that point could have been undertaken between the U. States and Mexico, in advance of the ratification of the treaty. We should have had no right—no power—no authority, to have conducted such a negotiation, and to have undertaken it, would have been an assumption equally revolting to the pride of Mexico and Texas, and subjecting to the charge of arrogance, while to have proposed in advance of annexation, to satisfy Mexico for any contingent interest she might have in Texas, would have been to have treated Texas, not as an independent power, but as a mere dependency of Mexico.

This assumption could not have been acted on by the Executive, without setting at defiance your own solemn declaration that the Republic was an independent State. Mexico, had, it is true, threatened war against the United States, in the event the treaty of Annexation was ratified. The Executive could not permit itself to be influenced by this threat. It represented in this, the spirit of our people, who are ready to sacrifice much for peace, but nothing to intimidation. A war, under any circumstances, is greatly to be deplored, and the United States is the last nation to desire it; but if, as the condition of peace, it is required of us to forego the unquestionable right of treating with an independent power, of our own Continent, upon matters highly interesting to both, and that upon a naked and unsustained pretension of claim by a third power, to control the free-will of the power with whom we treat—devoted as we may be to peace, and anxious to cultivate friendly relations with the whole world, the Executive does not hesitate to say that, the people of the United States would be ready to brave all consequences sooner than submit to such condition.

But no apprehension of war was entertained by the Executive; and I must express frankly the opinion that, had the treaty been ratified by the Senate, it would have been followed by a prompt settlement, to the entire satisfaction of Mexico, of every matter in difference between the two countries. Seeing then that new preparations for hostile invasion of Texas were about to be adopted by Mexico, and that these were brought about because Texas had adopted the suggestions of the Executive upon the subject of Annexation, it could not have passively folded its arms and permitted a war, threatened to be accompanied by every act that could mark a barbarous age, to be waged against her, because she had done so.

Other considerations of a controlling character influence the course of the Executive. The treaty which had been negotiated, had failed to receive the ratification of the Senate. One of the chief objections which were urged against it, was found to consist in the fact that the question of annexation had not been submitted to the ordeal of public opinion in the United States. However untenable such an objection was esteemed to be, in view of the unquestionable power of the Executive to negotiate the treaty, and the great and lasting interests involved in the question, I felt it to be my duty to submit the whole subject to Congress as the best expounders of popular